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General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
63rd meeting
held on
Wednesday, 8 April 1992
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 63rd MEETING

Chairman: Mr. MUNTASSER (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 107: PROPOSED PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993 (continued)

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1 concerning agenda item 137 (A/C.5/46/83)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the statement of programme budget implications of draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1, contained in document A/C.5/46/83. Implementation of the draft resolution, the revised text of which contained no substantive changes, would entail three major changes to existing bodies.

2. The first would be to transform the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development and its subsidiary body, the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development (ACAST), into one functional commission of the Economic and Social Council. The new commission, which would be named the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, would comprise 53 members and would meet for two weeks every other year. The United Nations would pay the travel expenses of one representative of each of the Member States participating in the new Commission. In that connection, the Advisory Committee noted that the travel costs for a session to be held during the biennium 1992-1993 were estimated at $175,000.

3. The Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development would not meet in 1992-1993. Instead of the one-week meeting scheduled to be held in Burundi in May 1992, the Secretariat intended to hold an ad hoc expert meeting in May 1992, also in Burundi. That meeting, which was expected to cost less than the original ACAST meeting, would be financed from the provisions of section 18 of the programme budget for 1992-1993, including, if necessary, through a redeployment of resources from within the section. The actual cost would be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the first budget performance reform for 1992-1993.

4. The Advisory Committee noted from the draft resolution that the new Commission would examine at its first session the funding arrangements and the modalities for the convening of ad hoc panels/workshops which would meet intersessionally. As indicated in paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/46/83, the estimated requirements for the Commission in 1992-1993 did not include any possible provision for such meetings. ACABQ was of the view that any expenditure in that regard should be reported to the General Assembly in the context of the performance report for the current biennium.

5. The second change called for in the draft resolution concerned a restructuring of the Committee on Natural Resources, which currently comprised 54 members who were representatives of Governments. Under the terms of the

(Mr. Mselle)

draft resolution, the restructured Committee on Natural Resources would comprise 24 government-nominated experts acting in their personal capacities. The United Nations would pay travel expenses and a daily subsistence allowance, an amount estimated at $147,000 for the biennium, for each member of the Committee.

6. The third change called for in the draft resolution entailed transforming the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, comprising government representatives of all Member States, into the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development, composed of 24 government-nominated experts acting in their personal capacities. Those members would be entitled to the payment of travel expenses and daily subsistence allowances. The new Committee would assume the responsibilities for energy issues currently included in the mandate of the Committee on Natural Resources, and would next meet in the biennium 1994-1995.

7. In paragraph 6 of the statement of programme budget implications, the Secretary-General indicated that the conference-servicing costs relating to the session of the new Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the restructured Committee on Natural Resources would amount to $992,000. Those costs would be met from within the existing appropriation under section 32 of the programme budget. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the changes to the appropriation would be reported on in the context of the first performance report for the current biennium. The Advisory Committee had no objection to such a course of action. At the same time, however, it reiterated its previously stated view that outstanding issues remained with regard to removing inconsistencies in the payment of subsistence allowances to members of certain organs and subsidiary bodies. Accordingly, as stated in its report (A/46/748), the Advisory Committee, upon receipt of the requested review and evaluation of the current rules and procedures for the payment of travel expenses and subsistence allowances by the Organization, would submit its related observations and recommendations thereon to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

8. The Committee was recommending that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1, additional requirements under section 14 amounting to $147,000 would be required and that savings amounting to $231,000 were estimated under section 18. Furthermore, it should be noted that it was the Secretary-General's intention to deal with those changes in the context of the first performance report for the biennium 1992-1993.

9. Mr. RAE (India) observed that the General Assembly had in resolution 46/185 stressed the importance for developing countries of the activities under section 18 of the programme budget. Concern had been expressed there at the negative growth proposed for section 18. The statement before the Committee of the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1 indicated that there would apparently be a further reduction

(Mr. Rae, India)

of $231,000. The programme budget had included an appropriation for the travel and subsistence costs for experts of the subsidiary bodies of the Intergovernmental Committee on Science and Technology for Development, while the statement submitted by the Secretary-General included provisions for the new functional Commission but not for the ad hoc panels/workshops that would meet intersessionally. Since, according to the draft resolution, those ad hoc panels/workshops had to meet, funds had to be provided for them; but if that was done, the savings mentioned could not be achieved. Some clarification seem to be in order.

10. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) said that draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1 was a positive first step towards compliance with General Assembly resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 on the restructuring of the Economic and Social Council, but he regretted that more progress had not been made in the intervening time. Regarding the funding of the intersessional ad hoc panels/workshops of the new Commission on Science and Technology for Development, he shared the concern expressed by the representative of India. As to the ad hoc expert meeting to be held in Burundi, he wondered if the authority existed to finance it from the regular budget.

11. Mr. CLAVIJO (Colombia) said that he too shared the concern expressed by the representative of India. When the programme budget had been adopted, the need for full implementation of the science and technology programmes had been stressed. The changes provided for in draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1 were formal rather than substantive changes. Even though the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development was being dissolved, work would have to continue between the sessions of the functional Commission. If the figures given were any indication, it was difficult to understand the justification for the reductions provided for in section 18. Intersessional activities had to be funded from the resources allocated for the purpose in the programme budget. The new Department of Economic and Social Development ought to make specific proposals for interim arrangements governing intersessional activities before the first session of the new functional Commission, when the question of funding arrangements and the modalities for the convening of the intersessional ad hoc panels/workshops would be examined.

12. Mr. SCHONLEITER (Germany) said that during the negotiations on draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1 it had been agreed that the measures stipulated would not affect total expenditures. The statement on the programme budget implications indicated additional requirements of $147,000 in section 14 and savings of $231,000 in section 18, but no consideration was given to the consequences of restructuring the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, since it was expected that the Committee would meet during the 1994-1995 biennium. As in the case of the restructured Committee on Natural Resources, it would have to be assumed that the additional requirements for travel and subsistence costs for the members of the new Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development would amount to approximately $147,000. That would mean a net increase in total expenditures.

13. Mr. CARDOSO (Brazil) said that his delegation supported the comments of the representatives of India and Colombia. Brazil had favoured the adoption of draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1 as part of the process of restructuring and revitalizing the United Nations in the economic and social and related spheres. For that process to be effective, there must be full compliance with all existing mandates. The General Assembly had just recognized that need in the area specifically of science and technology in resolution 46/185, adopted during the current session. The annex to draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1 referred to the possibility that the future Commission on Science and Technology for Development would continue the practice of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development, although it was of course not excluded that the Commission might institute other arrangements to obtain the input its work required. Bearing those two points in mind, namely, compliance with current mandates and the decisions to be taken by the new Commission at its first session, his delegation believed that the current appropriations should be maintained until the Commission adopted its decisions and until the redistribution of the funds needed for the fulfilment of mandates in the field of science and technology was completed.

14. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that his delegation fully supported the comments made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee concerning the payment of the travel and related costs of representatives at United Nations meetings. Document A/C.5/46/83 indicated that the United Nations paid the costs of members of functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council. His delegation wondered if it was advisable for the Organization to pay such costs across the board, without regard for the criteria applied in appointing commission members or any arrangements the Secretary-General might make with the Member States. A case in point was the new Commission for Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: although the Fifth Committee had not approved the additional appropriations proposed by the Secretary-General in his statement of financial implications (A/C.5/46/76), it appeared that the United Nations would be paying the travel costs of representatives to that functional Commission for the session to be held in Vienna from 21 to 30 April 1992.

15. His delegation recalled the recommendations of the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations, which the General Assembly had endorsed in resolution 41/213. In Japan's view, the payment of travel costs for United Nations meetings should be restricted to the representatives of the least developed countries. In any case, the review of the current rules and procedures in that respect, to which the Chairman of the Advisory Committee had referred, was under way and was expected to be concluded by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. Japan proposed, specifically, that the Committee should endorse the arrangements described by the Advisory Committee regarding the review of the payment of travel expenses and subsistence allowances, as a follow-up to section IX of General Assembly resolution 43/217.

16. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) said that his delegation shared the concerns expressed by the representatives of India, Colombia and Brazil. The Chairman of the Advisory Committee had indicated in his remarks that it endorsed the Secretary-General's recommendation in document A/C.5/46/83 to reduce the appropriation under section 18 of the programme budget by $231,000. If additional funds should be required, including funds for the meeting to be held in May in Burundi, the funds in question would be provided through a redeployment of resources within section 18 of the programme budget. His delegation attached great importance to the work that would be done at the Burundi meeting and consequently supported its financing from the regular budget. As other speakers had pointed out, at the current stage, when it was not clear how scheduled activities would be funded, including the Burundi meeting, it was perhaps not prudent for the General Assembly to authorize a reduction under section 18.

17. Furthermore, it was not clear to his delegation that there was a direct link between the new Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development and the Committee on Natural Resources. His delegation was not aware of any mandate providing that the new Committee should meet during the biennium 1994-1995 and not during the current biennium. Such a decision could be taken only by the General Assembly. Consequently, paragraph 7 of document A/C.5/46/83 did not appear justified at the present juncture.

18. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) said that, as members of the Committee were perfectly aware, the statements of programme budget implications were intended only as a guide, and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the criteria set by the Fifth Committee were always taken into account. It was, however, true that document A/C.5/46/83 was not as clear as it might have been.

19. In reply to the various questions and requests for clarification, he pointed out that, in the first place, if the Committee approved the Advisory Committee's recommendation, that did not mean that it would be reducing the budget for section 18 or increasing the budget for section 14. Nor would it be agreeing to a transfer of resources from one section to another. The Fifth Committee would simply be pointing out that the General Assembly resolution could have the financial implications set out in the Secretary-General's statement. In any case, the financial implications which actually ensued would appear in the performance reports of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

20. In the second place, the conference-servicing costs for the new structure, calculated on a full-cost basis, would be lower than those required by the existing structure. Furthermore, the purpose of draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1 was not to cut expenditure, but rather to improve the machinery. The statement of programme budget implications had been submitted with that in mind. Thirdly, the restructuring in question would in no way affect the execution of existing mandates, whether for activities under section 18 of the budget adopted in December 1991 or for activities deriving

(Mr. Baudot)

from other resolutions already adopted by the General Assembly in the field of science and technology for development.

21. Turning to more practical matters, the meeting to be held in Burundi in May would undoubtedly be a meeting of experts. However, its tasks in connection with the preparation of the work of the new Commission would be similar to those of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development. It was very likely that the cost of the meeting, which would be in the region of $100,000, would be lower than that of the Advisory Committee's meetings. It would be up to the Economic and Social Council to decide when in 1993 the new Commission should meet. It might be advisable for it to meet at the beginning of the year or in sufficient time to enable it to take the necessary decisions concerning the establishment of and arrangements for the ad hoc panels/workshops. The financial aspects of the question, in the context of the appropriations already approved for section 18 of the programme budget, would be specified in the second performance report of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

22. The idea that the restructured Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy should meet during the biennium 1994-1995 was based on the fact that the existing Committee had held a session in February 1992 and on the assumption that the Committee should meet every two years. It was true that the General Assembly could decide that the Committee should meet in 1993, but in that case additional resources would be required for the programme budget. For those reasons, document A/C.5/46/83 made no reference to fresh appropriations for the new Committee.

23. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) asked whether the ad hoc panels/workshops could hold their meetings wherever they wished, or whether they would be subject to the general rules requiring bodies to meet at their respective headquarters.

24. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), in connection with the remarks made by the representative of Uganda, and in confirmation of the statement by the Acting Controller, said that the Advisory Committee was not recommending either a reduction in the appropriation under section 18 or an increase in the appropriation under section 14. Any financial implications of the decision to be taken by the General Assembly on draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1 would be indicated by the Secretary-General in the performance report. The points raised in the statement were indicative in nature only and not binding.

25. Mr. RAE (India) noted that the travel expenses and daily subsistence allowances of members of the Advisory Committee on Science and Technology for Development and the four working groups had been met from the regular budget; that the statement of programme budget implications currently included a figure of only $175,000 for the Commission on Science and Technology for Development. That was $231,000 less than the provision which had been made earlier; it was shown as a saving and might appear in the first performance

(Mr. Rae, India)

report of the programme budget; he wondered whether that amount would be available in 1993 for the ad hoc panels/workshops to be set up after the first session of the new functional commission.

26. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) replied that the adoption of the draft resolution would not affect the budget for section 18. In fact, it was being proposed, within the framework of section 18, that the appropriations should be used to finance the meeting of the groups of experts in Burundi in May. There would be opportunities to put forward recommendations and adopt decisions concerning the overall level of the budget for section 18, inter alia in connection with the first performance report of the programme budget. In reply to the question by the representative of the United States of America, at the present time he could not say for certain whether the headquarters rule would apply to the meetings of the groups of experts.

27. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the principle on which the headquarters rule was based was that an organ serviced by a secretariat should meet in the place in which its secretariat was based. Ad hoc panels and workshops did not have secretariats servicing them on an exclusive basis and, accordingly, had no headquarters location. Their meetings were convened by the Secretary-General in accordance with instructions from the General Assembly or at his discretion concerning the best means of implementing the programme of activities authorized by the General Assembly. Accordingly, the Secretary-General could decide to convene such meetings in the venue he deemed appropriate, in the case in point, in Burundi. An agreement had been concluded between the United Nations and the Government of Burundi to hold the meeting in that country.

28. Mr. CLAVIJO (Colombia) said that the estimated cost of meetings of the Committee on Natural Resources was $147,000, but it was not certain that the calculations concerning possible changes to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development were accurate. Given the uncertainty surrounding the figures, he wondered whether paragraph 8 of document A/C.5/46/83 should be retained. Perhaps it could be replaced by a paragraph expressing the hope that there would be changes in the activities between sessions, but without giving any figures. In order to avoid confusion, it might be better to retain only the first sentence of paragraph 9 of the document.

29. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) said that the text which the Committee would recommend for adoption by the General Assembly would be that proposed by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee. Consequently, the question of whether or not specific paragraphs of the statement of programme budget implications should be retained did not arise.

30. Mr. GOMAA (Tunisia) asked how it would be possible to review the implementation of the programme during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly in 1993, as stipulated in paragraph 10 of A/46/L.57/Rev.1, if the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development was not to meet during that year, as specified in paragraph 3 of document A/C.5/46/83.

31. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) replied that the "review" mentioned in paragraph 10 of document A/46/L.57/Rev.1 referred to the entire restructuring process and that "further steps" referred to restructuring in general. Since the original committee had met at the beginning of 1992 and it was hoped that the new Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development would meet every two years, it was assumed that the new committee would meet during the 1994-1995 biennium, subject to what was decided in that respect by the General Assembly.

32. Mr. GOMAA (Tunisia) expressed reservations about the Controller's interpretation; he felt that the "review" referred to the implementation of draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1. Perhaps the Legal Counsel could be asked to give an opinion regarding the interpretation of paragraph 10, so as to help the General Assembly take an appropriate decision.

33. Mr. CONMY (Ireland) said that a legal opinion would not help since the question of the representative of Tunisia concerned the purpose of a resolution which was not legally binding, but merely represented the political will of the General Assembly. Moreover, it was for the General Assembly to decide when the Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development would meet and to allocate the necessary additional resources; consequently, those questions would not affect the Committee's decision on financial implications.

34. The CHAIRMAN said that he agreed with the representative of Ireland and he called on the representative of Tunisia to join the consensus.

35. Mr. GOMAA (Tunisia) said that his delegation was not trying to block the consensus. Tunisia would be raising the question in the General Assembly and wished to do so in the Committee, because the General Assembly might send the draft resolution back to the Committee when the question of the interpretation of the financial implications arose if it was decided that the new Committee on New and Renewable Sources of Energy and on Energy for Development should meet in 1993. Tunisia would join the consensus, but would raise the question in the General Assembly.

36. The CHAIRMAN suggested that, on the basis of the statement on programme budget implications appearing in document A/C.5/46/83, and of the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions, the Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1, additional resource requirements under section 14 and estimated savings under section 18 would be reflected in the first performance report of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

37. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) asked the Committee to take into account his delegation's suggestion that the Committee should endorse the arrangements suggested by the Advisory Committee regarding the travel and subsistence entitlements of representatives attending meetings.

38. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that, so as to take into account the proposal made by the representative of Japan, the Committee, if it wished, could accept the Chairman's suggestion, which was not at variance with that of Japan, and that an additional line could then be added indicating that the Committee endorsed the comments and recommendations of the Advisory Committee, given that the text would subsequently be issued as an official document of the General Assembly. The Fifth Committee would indicate its endorsement of the comments and recommendations of the ACABQ on the basis of the clarification that, for the time being, no recommendation was being made for any decrease or increase in resources under sections 14 and 18.

39. Mr. CLAVIJO (Colombia) asked whether the Chairman's proposal could be amended; instead of referring to estimated "savings" under section 18, he would prefer to say estimated "changes", or some similar word, so as not to prejudge possible developments in the area of science and technology.

40. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that if the word "changes" was used in one section, it should also be used in the other sections; otherwise the text would be less clear, even if its substance was unchanged.

41. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) suggested that the Committee should use the standard formula, namely that the Committee recommended that the Assembly concur with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee.

42. Mr. ETUKET (Uganda) asked the Chairman to read out the exact text that was to be adopted and expressed the hope that no interpretation would be given of the draft resolutions. For example, his delegation had its own interpretation of document A/46/L.57/Rev.1 but did not feel that it was the time to raise such questions.

43. The CHAIRMAN read out the text of his proposal, namely that the Fifth Committee should inform the General Assembly that, should it adopt draft resolution A/46/L.57/Rev.1, resource requirements under section 14 (Department of Technical Cooperation for Development) and estimates under section 18 (Centre for Science and Technology for Development) would be reflected in the budget performance reports for the biennium 1992-1993; and should recommend to the General Assembly that it concur with the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions. If there was no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to adopt the text.

44. It was so decided.

45. Mr. RAE (India) said that had he had an opportunity to speak before the text read out by the Chairman was approved, he would have firmly supported Colombia's proposal. He also wished to know exactly which were the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee referred to in the text adopted.

46. The CHAIRMAN said that the statement made by the Chairman of the Advisory Committee at the beginning of the meeting would be published and circulated shortly. He hoped that that would meet the needs of the representative of India.

47. Mr. SEBURYAMO (Burundi) confirmed that his Government was prepared to organize the meeting of the group of experts in May 1992, as planned. The preparations were well advanced. Burundi would remain in close contact with the Secretariat to finalize the details of the preparations. The meeting was of interest not only for Burundi itself, but also for most of the least developed countries.

48. Mr. SY (Senegal) endorsed the comments made by the representative of Burundi on the importance of the meeting of the group of experts. With regard to the text that had been adopted, he reiterated that the General Assembly should in no way be encouraged to reduce, even experimentally, the estimates under section 18. For countries like Senegal it was very important that the mandates under that section of the budget should be fully implemented. Colombia's proposal was therefore excellent.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that the Committee had completed its consideration of item 107.

OTHER MATTERS

50. Mr. BAUDOT (Acting Controller) said that, with regard to items 109 (Current financial crisis of the United Nations) and 110 (Financial emergency of the United Nations), document A/46/600/Add.1 had been considered during the forty-sixth session but that no decision had been taken; he suggested that it should not be taken up in the immediate future because the Secretariat, and he himself, wished to reflect more fully on the proposals made in the Secretary-General's document. He hoped that the document would be taken up again after the end of May. However, the decision to postpone the consideration of the document did not in any way mean that the financial situation of the United Nations had improved. Thirty-five Member States had paid their contributions to the regular budget of the United Nations for 1992. Arrears in respect of that budget amounted to a little over $1,000 million. The situation with regard to the budget for peace-keeping operations had not improved either: those arrears came to some $600 million. The proposals regarding the budget for peace-keeping operations in Cambodia would be submitted to the Advisory Committee and to the Fifth Committee as soon as possible, in the first fortnight of May at the latest. Of the $200 million approved by the General Assembly for launching those operations, some $150 million had yet to be received.

51. The CHAIRMAN made a farewell statement to members of the Committee.

The meeting rose at 12.30 p.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
64th meeting
held on
Wednesday, 20 May 1992
at 10 a.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 64th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands)
(Vice-Chairman)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Spaans (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.15 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM 139: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR (A/46/900, A/46/904)

1. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) said that the Advisory Committee had considered the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (A/46/900) and, in preparing its report (A/46/904) had borne in mind its previous comments on the operations of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) and the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL). It recommended an appropriation of $39 million gross (or $37 million net) for ONUSAL for the period 1 January to 31 October 1992. The calculation had taken into account the net unencumbered balance of $3.4 million for ONUSAL.

2. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) took note of the statement in paragraph 7 of the Advisory Committee's report that the Secretary-General's report on the financing of ONUSAL had not addressed the relationship between ONUCA and ONUSAL, the transfer of resources or the possibility of successor arrangements. Many Member States had paid their share of the appropriation for ONUCA on the assumption that it would complete its mandate. Moreover, while the Advisory Committee recommended the transfer of resources from ONUCA to ONUSAL, in paragraph 8 of its report it asked the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session on the feasibility of merging the accounts of the two operations.

3. As peace-keeping operations were increasing in size and number, with attendant higher costs, Member States also had a heightened interest in improving the efficiency and financial accountability of such operations.

4. There were inherent problems in closing and settling the ONUCA account, but the fact remained that its operations had ended ahead of schedule and that many Member States had paid in advance. The actual costs should be identified as soon as possible and the proper accounting procedure followed. Those Member States which had paid in advance should not be penalized, while financial continuity between ONUCA and ONUSAL should be assured.

5. Mr. COHEN (United States of America) welcomed the comments of the representative of Japan. His delegation, too, was concerned about the relationship between ONUCA and ONUSAL. Noting the Advisory Committee's request that the Secretary-General report to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session, he wondered why the issue could not be addressed immediately. Perhaps there were technical reasons; if so, they should be explained.

(Mr. Cohen, United States)

6. Paragraph 6 of the Advisory Committee's report spoke of outstanding assessed contributions in the amount of some $6.2 million. Of that amount, two thirds had apparently been received, so that ONUSAL would no longer have a deficit but a moderate surplus. It was hard, therefore, to see why the unencumbered balance referred to in paragraph 6 should be retained.

7. Mr. BAUDOT (Officer-in-charge, Department of Administration and Management) said that, as indicated, the issue of a merger of ONUCA and ONUSAL would be addressed at the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly. The United States representative was correct in saying that some of the outstanding assessed contributions had been received, but the amount was not so great as to eliminate the deficit, which remained at about $2 million.

8. The CHAIRMAN said that a decision on the item would be deferred until a later meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 148: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (A/46/903, A/46/916)

9. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions) noted that in his report (A/46/903), the Secretary-General had tentatively estimated the total cost of the United Nations Advance Mission in Cambodia (UNAMIC) and the newly established United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) at about $1,721.6 million. The military and logistics personnel to be deployed would number an estimated 19,500, including military and civilian police. In addition, 68,000 civilian staff would be engaged, the bulk of whom would be recruited locally to help organize the elections.

10. The repatriation and resettlement and rehabilitation components of UNTAC, by current estimates, would require voluntary contributions of $593 million, including $116 million for repatriation and resettlement under the auspices of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

11. The Advisory Committee had carefully considered the Secretary-General's estimates for the financing of UNTAC on the basis of his report (A/46/903) and of additional written information. It had also had before it for information the Paris Agreements on a Comprehensive Political Settlement of the Cambodia Conflict and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council on the operational plan for UNTAC. The Advisory Committee had concluded that the bulk of the expenditure could not be accurately estimated and that a few months' field experience would enable an accurate estimate to be prepared. The Secretary-General had recognized the tentative nature of the estimates and had requested funds up to 31 October 1992, pending a performance report indicating what additional funds were needed to fulfil the UNTAC mandate.

(Mr. Mselle)

12. The Advisory Committee had indicated that there were a large number of items for which the expenditure might not be as estimated. In particular, the costs of travel, rations and procurement of goods had not necessarily been realistically assessed. Moreover, those costs could be greatly affected by competitive bidding and discounts for volume. For the period ending 31 October 1992, the Advisory Committee was of the view that an appropriation of $839.6 million gross (or $833.2 million net) for UNTAC, which included an amount of $233.6 million gross (or $233.2 million net) already appropriated for UNAMIC, should be adequate, with the proviso mentioned in paragraph 78 of the Advisory Committee's report (A/46/916).

13. The Advisory Committee's recommendation did not imply any reduction in the level of resources UNTAC would eventually require. That level would be determined in October 1992, at which time it would be possible to carry out a more precise review of the operation's additional requirements for the balance of the mandate period as approved by the Security Council.

14. Mr. BAUDOT (Officer-in-charge, Department of Administration and Management) said that UNTAC was an unprecedented operation, not just because of its scope but also because of its cost. The total cost would be $1,722 million gross (or $1,699 million net) for the period 1 November 1991 to 31 July 1993. He referred members to annexes I and II of the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/903) for detailed cost estimates. Paragraph 48 of the report outlined the action required of the General Assembly.

15. An additional appropriation of $606 million gross (or $600 million net) had been requested in the Advisory Committee's report. It was hoped that that sum would be sufficient to see the operation through until 31 October 1992, at which point a new estimate would be prepared.

16. He drew the attention of members to the reminder in paragraph 79 of the Advisory Committee's report, to the effect that it was essential for Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. Peace-keeping operations were largely dependent on such contributions.

17. With respect to paragraph 33 of the Advisory Committee's report, in which it recommended the exclusion of locally recruited staff from the United Nations Joint Staff Pension Fund, some provision was no doubt required to compensate local staff in the event of death or disability. The recommendation in paragraph 58 to the effect that the Organization should explore the possibility of starting its own self-insurance for vehicles had been noted. Finally, the external audit services mentioned in paragraph 67 would be supplemented by internal United Nations audit services.

18. Mr. CARDOSO (Brazil) said that his delegation fully supported all United Nations peace-keeping operations and had been proud to provide military observers and police monitors for some of them. He understood the time constraints necessary for the effective implementation of the peace-keeping

(Mr. Cardoso, Brazil)

operations in El Salvador and Cambodia but was concerned that the current meeting had been scheduled at the same time as the first part of the thirty-second session of the Committee on Programme and Coordination. Such a situation was unlikely to encourage effective participation in the decision-making process of the Organization. In addition, the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of UNTAC (A/46/903) had not been received by his Mission until 12 May 1992, while the report of the Advisory Committee (A/46/916) had been received only within the previous 48 hours. Clearly, in dealing with matters of such great urgency, the six-week rule could not always be applied and delegations had always been flexible. However, the Committee was being asked to draw up a resolution dealing with considerable sums of money and matters of the utmost concern to all Member States. He would therefore welcome information on the circumstances which had prompted the scheduling arrangements for the current meeting.

19. Mrs. SYAHRUDDIN (Indonesia) said that the full support of the international community for the UNTAC operation was needed in order to create an environment conducive to peace and stability in Cambodia. Her country fully supported the Secretary-General's efforts to comply with the UNTAC mandate and had already provided a full battalion of troops. A second battalion would be deployed in the near future, together with police, military observers and military staff. Her delegation fully supported the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/903) and the recommendations and conclusions of the Advisory Committee (A/46/916).

20. Mr. WU Gang (China) said that his Government fully supported UNTAC, which was the largest peace-keeping operation ever mounted by the United Nations. However, if it was to be effectively implemented, all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. His own Government had paid the full amount of its first assessed contribution in March 1992 and he appealed to all other Member States, particularly the major contributors, to meet their obligations as soon as possible.

21. The Secretary-General had provided an estimate of the total expenditure on UNTAC and had given a detailed breakdown in the annex to his report. He had proposed that the General Assembly should approve an appropriation of $764 million to meet financial needs up to the end of October 1992. However, it was to be regretted that the annex to the report did not list the budgetary requirements to the end of October, with the result that it was difficult for Member States to understand what the actual budgetary requirements were for that stage of the operation. He hoped that the matter would be rectified in future reports.

22. His Government had always stressed the importance of economy and efficiency in peace-keeping operations and he welcomed the Advisory Committee's recommendations for savings in various areas, particularly in the purchasing of vehicles. Nevertheless, because of the scope and complexity of the peace-keeping operation in Cambodia, many unforeseen factors might arise.

(Mr. Wu Gang, China)

It was therefore essential to ensure that the financial arrangements did not impair the full implementation of all the activities mandated by the Paris Agreements. The Secretary-General should constantly monitor the budgetary performance of the operation and propose adjustments as necessary.

23. Mr. RAE (India) said that UNTAC was one of the most complex peace-keeping operations ever mounted by the United Nations, as well as the largest from the financial and administrative point of view. His Government fully supported the operation and had been closely involved in the negotiation of the Paris Agreements. It had also provided a substantial number of personnel, including police monitors, military observers and medical and infantry units. Given the magnitude of the operation, sufficient funds must be made available and those funds must be administered in a cost-effective manner. The additional appropriation of $606 million for the period up to 31 October 1992 proposed by the Advisory Committee seemed to strike the right balance. In any case, future requirements could be reviewed when the performance report was submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session.

24. In general, his Government supported the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, which might have implications for many other aspects of peace-keeping operations. In particular, he felt that the recommendation on the recruitment of international staff was both unexceptionable and wise. Clearly, traditional rules and recruitment procedures, which sometimes involved delays, could not always be fully applied, given the urgency of the situation. As was pointed out in the report of the Secretary-General, innovative measures were necessary and he wondered what steps the Secretariat had already taken in that direction. His own Government would be willing to provide civilian staff for UNTAC and would bear the domestic costs provided that the international costs were met by the Organization. The Advisory Committee's recommendation that specific guidelines should be developed for the participation of civilian personnel provided by Governments was also to be welcomed. All possibilities of reducing travel costs for civilian and military personnel should be explored and charter flights should be used wherever possible. Sufficient account had not been taken of the fact that many civilian staff had been provided by neighbouring countries and that consequently the average cost of air passages used in the calculations could be reduced. In addition, substantial savings could also be made by using suppliers from neighbouring countries or countries in the region for procurement, provided that quality standards were met.

25. In his first progress report on UNTAC (S/23870), the Secretary-General had stated that, in view of the complexity of an operation such as UNTAC, it might be necessary to re-examine the manner in which existing financial and administrative rules and regulations of the organization were applied. However, no mention had been made in the Secretary-General's report on the financing of UNTAC (A/46/903) of any possible changes and he wondered whether the Secretariat could say what changes, if any, were envisaged.

(Mr. Rae, India)

26. He agreed with the representative of Brazil that adequate time was needed to consider vital issues involving such substantial sums of money.

27. Ms. BIRD (Australia) said that the proposed appropriation for the period up to 31 October 1992 was crucial to the UNTAC operation, which her country fully supported and to which it had contributed significant numbers of military personnel. It was vital that the deployment of military and civilian personnel and equipment should go ahead in accordance with the timetable which had been laid down and that the necessary funds should be forthcoming. The cuts proposed by the Advisory Committee might need to be readjusted in the light of developments on the ground; that could be done when subsequent appropriations were decided upon.

28. She noted that, in paragraph 73 of its report, the Advisory Committee questioned the usefulness of mine-clearing bulldozers. However, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia had said that the bulldozers were vital to the mine-clearing operation and that their absence could jeopardize the safety of UNTAC personnel. Her understanding was that the Advisory Committee's report would not prevent UNTAC from acquiring such equipment if it considered it necessary, but she would welcome confirmation on that point.

29. In paragraphs 59 and 60 of its report, the Advisory Committee questioned the need for the proposed commercial communication system and wondered whether the military network could not be extended to meet the same purpose. In her view, the military and commercial communications systems were entirely separate and fulfilled different needs.

30. She agreed with the representative of India concerning the recruitment of international staff and fully supported the observations made by the Advisory Committee in paragraph 25 of its report, which she hoped would be followed up.

31. Mr. KABIR (Bangladesh) said that his delegation was convinced that international support for the United Nations operation in Cambodia should be more vigorous than ever. It therefore fully supported the Secretary-General's report (A/46/903) and the Advisory Committee's comments thereon (A/46/916). It would only ask the Secretary-General to carry out the task he had been assigned with the utmost cost-effectiveness.

32. Mr. BAUDOT (Officer-in-charge, Department of Administration and Management), responding to some of the comments made by representatives, said that the Secretariat was well aware of the important responsibility borne by the General Assembly on budgetary matters and it took that responsibility very seriously. On its side, the Secretariat had, however, been anxious to have a decision by the General Assembly as quickly as possible, in view of the urgency of the situation. He could assure representatives that later in the year, when a further progress report and a request for additional appropriations was brought before the Assembly, they would be given ample time to review the entire subject.

(Mr. Baudot)

33. With respect to recruitment, he wished to point out that one innovation introduced in Cambodia had been the use of volunteer personnel. Some effort had been made by the Special Representative to make use of personnel recruited directly from Member States and the Secretariat would continue to study the question, bearing in mind both cost considerations and the need to gather as much expertise and goodwill as possible. The Cambodian operation was having the effect of increasing awareness both within the Secretariat and among Member States of the increased burden such operations placed on the Secretariat and its budget, and of the need for the Secretariat to apprise Member States more clearly of the implications of such operations.

34. In connection with the Indian representative's reference to the first progress report of the Secretary-General on UNTAC (S/23870), he noted that, apart from technical and administrative measures which, although important, were purely internal, attention might be given to the Secretary-General's suggestions, in the statement made during his recent visit to Washington, concerning the establishment of a fund for peace-keeping operations and the possibility of having one third of the financing of a peace-keeping operation approved by the General Assembly as soon as the operation was decided on by the Security Council.

35. With regard to the Australian representative's references to the Advisory Committee's comments on mine-clearing and telecommunications equipment, he pointed out that the Advisory Committee had asked only that the Secretariat should review the estimates for that equipment, not that the allocations should be eliminated.

36. Mr. SADRY (Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Cambodia) said that, as the Officer-in-charge of the Department of Administration and Management had pointed out, the Secretariat did intend to approach Governments with a view to the direct recruitment of both expert personnel for the electoral process and technical staff.

37. The Secretariat had approached neighbouring countries with regard to the procurement of equipment, on the basis of competitive bidding, as was the standard procedure of the United Nations. As an exception, however, it had also done some procurement on an urgent basis, because of the urgency of the situation.

38. Referring to the Australian representative's comments, he said that the Secretariat was well aware that the military and civilian telecommunications systems were completely different; it had combined the personnel of the two systems in order to ensure that they functioned in cooperation and without duplication of effort.

39. In connection with the mine-clearing bulldozers referred to by the Australian representative, he said that the Secretariat would review the

matter bearing in mind when they would be needed by UNTAC. All the equipment requested would in fact be kept under review on a case-by-case basis and in the light of the actual situation.

40. The CHAIRMAN said he agreed with the Brazilian and Indian representatives that the General Assembly played an essential role with respect to matters such as the financing of UNTAC, and that care must be taken to give due attention to that role. It was with that in mind that he had scheduled the current meeting and he was grateful for the flexibility shown by Committee members in agreeing to the meeting. The meeting had been scheduled during the current rather than the following week because the Advisory Committee, which also played an important role in such matters, especially where there were very large financial implications, would be meeting in Europe during the following week.

41. A decision on the item under consideration would be deferred until a later meeting, following informal consultations.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.

UNITED NATIONS

General Assembly

FORTY-SIXTH SESSION

Official Records

FIFTH COMMITTEE
65th meeting
held on
Thursday, 21 May 1992
at 3 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 65th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. SPAANS (Netherlands)
(Vice Chairman)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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28 May 1992

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Spaans (Netherlands), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 139: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OBSERVER MISSION IN EL SALVADOR (continued) (A/46/900 and A/46/904; A/C.5/46/L.24)

1. Mr. RAMOS (Spain) briefly introduced the draft resolution on the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (A/C.5/46/L.24), which was the result of considerable consultation among delegations. The draft resolution took note of the fact that additional payments of assessed contributions had been made since 31 March 1992, the date of the Secretary-General's report, so that the outstanding assessments had been reduced. It also included a decision to the effect that $2 million of the unencumbered balance of appropriation should be retained in the Special Account. Paragraph 8 emphasized the desirability of merging the accounts of the United Nations Observer Group in Central America (ONUCA) and the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador (ONUSAL).

2. He commended delegations for their understanding in accepting compromises, so that the draft resolution could be adopted without a vote.

3. Mr. RANDRIAMALALA (Madagascar) pointed out that, in paragraph 6 of its resolution 46/206, the General Assembly had approved the inclusion of five States in the list of least developed countries. He therefore proposed that the following text should be inserted in the draft resolution as a new paragraph 6:

> "Decides to reclassify Cambodia, Madagascar, Zaire and Zambia among the Member States listed in paragraph 3 (d) of resolution 43/232".

The purpose of the amendment was to update the status of those countries with regard to contributions to peace-keeping operations.

4. Mr. HOSANG (Assistant Director, Unit for Peace-keeping Matters and Special Assignments, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance) informed the Committee that the group of countries referred to by the representative of Madagascar was one of four established by the General Assembly for the assessment of contributions to peace-keeping operations. Changes to the category into which a given country fell had in the past been made when the resolution on the relevant appropriations was being considered. It was a matter for Member States to decide.

5. Mr. COHEN (United States of America) said that he believed the procedure suggested by the representative of Madagascar was not the usual one. Changes in a country's classification were usually dealt with under the general item on the financing of peace-keeping operations.

6. Mr. HOSANG (Assistant Director, Unit for Peace-keeping Matters and Special Assignments, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance) agreed, saying that reclassifications had normally been dealt with under the item on the administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peace-keeping operations. The placement of new Member States, however, had always been done when the General Assembly, at its regular session, considered financing for peace-keeping operations.

7. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) asked for clarification. He understood that the four groups, for purposes of peace-keeping assessments, were based on the following considerations: the first group consisted of permanent members of the Security Council; the second group, the other developed countries; the third group, developing countries; and the fourth group, the least developed countries. Since the General Assembly had already adopted resolution 46/206 classifying the four countries named as least developed countries, it was a foregone conclusion that they should be included in the fourth group.

8. Mr. CONMY (Ireland) was sympathetic to the position of the representative of Madagascar, but felt that, as classification for purposes of peace-keeping assessments was an important matter that affected the entire scale of assessments, it was inappropriate to deal with it in an ad hoc manner during a resumed session. He recalled that the matter of the assessment for the former Soviet republics had been brought up at a resumed session but had then been deferred until the regular session. The same should be done in the present case, as only the financing of missions was under consideration at the current resumed session.

9. The CHAIRMAN, noting that the Malagasy delegation's proposal had met with sympathy but not concurrence on the part of the Committee, asked that delegation to withdraw it. The General Assembly would at its regular session be considering the assessments of a number of Member States, and Madagascar's concern could be dealt with more appropriately at that time.

10. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana), speaking on a point of order, said that he had asked for clarification from the Secretariat and had not yet received it.

11. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom), noted that the scale of assessments and the apportionment of expenses among the Members under Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter had always been a matter of great sensitivity. His delegation understood the position of the representative of Madagascar and, with regard to the concerns of Ghana, asked whether the countries in the fourth group as listed in resolution 43/232 were identical with the least developed countries.

12. Mr. HOSANG (Assistant Director, Unit for Peace-keeping Matters and Special Assignments, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance) said that the classification of a country among the least developed countries did not automatically place it within a given group for purposes of the assessments for peace-keeping operations. Moreover, all the least developed countries did not necessarily belong to the fourth group.

13. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) asked what was the basis for establishing the groups.

14. Mr. HOSANG (Assistant Director, Unit for Peace-keeping Matters and Special Assignments, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance) said that there had never been a formal basis for the classification, except with respect to the first group, the permanent members of the Security Council. Groupings of Member States had first appeared with resolution 3101 (XXVIII) on the financing of the United Nations Emergency Force. The groupings had since been modified, most recently in connection with the appropriations for the United Nations Transition Assistance Group in resolution 43/232, which itself had then been adjusted several times, as indicated in paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.24.

15. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that if the Secretariat had gone into the legislative history, the reasons for the groupings would have been very clear. The four groups corresponded to permanent members of the Security Council, developed countries, developing countries and least developed countries. If the last named wished to take advantage of that status, that was their privilege.

16. Mr. BAUDOT (Officer-in-charge, Department of Administration and Management) said that, strictly speaking, as with the scale of assessments, the level of wealth of a given country determined its grouping. That principle had never been formally articulated, but resolution 3101 (XXVIII) had taken into account the fact that the economically more developed countries were in a position to make greater contributions. There was, however, no generally accepted scheme for moving from one category to another; each such change required a decision by the General Assembly.

17. Mr. RANDRIAMALALA (Madagascar) drew the Committee's attention to the fact that the classification of Member States into one of the four categories had always been done at meetings on the financing of peace-keeping operations. Thus, resolution 43/232 dealt with the transition period in Namibia and resolution 45/269 with the financing of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission II. It seemed therefore that the current meeting was an appropriate time to deal with his delegation's proposal.

18. Mr. KARBUCZKY (Hungary) said that his delegation was sympathetic to the proposal of the representative of Madagascar, but noted that, in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution under consideration, the contributions of new Member States were referred to and would be established retrospectively by the General Assembly at its forty-seventh session. He wondered whether the same thing could not be done for the reclassification suggested by the delegation of Madagascar.

19. Mr. RAZVIN (Russian Federation) asked the Secretariat what the procedure had been the last time the assessments had been changed.

20. Mr. BOIN (France) said that, as a permanent member of the Security Council, his country understood Ghana's position, but also agreed with the remarks made by the representatives of the United Kingdom and Ireland. The scale of assessments was a very delicate problem and should be considered in greater depth at the forty-seventh session.

21. Mr. HOSANG (Assistant Director, Unit for Peace-keeping Matters and Special Assignments, Office of Programme Planning, Budget and Finance), replying to the representative of Hungary, said that paragraph 9 of draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.24 stipulated that the rates of assessment for the countries concerned should be adopted at the forty-seventh session. Those countries would also have to be allocated to groups and that decision was the responsibility of the Committee.

22. In reply to the representative of the Russian Federation, he noted that the most recent reclassification had been when Poland had moved from the second group to the third group and Spain had moved from the third group to the second group, over a period of two years. He also pointed out that a number of countries which were not least developed countries were classified in the fourth group and that, in addition to the four countries mentioned by the representative of Madagascar, one other least developed country was classified in the third group.

23. Mr. MORCZYNSKI (Poland) said that, while he sympathized with the position of Madagascar, he wished to point out that Poland's reclassification had involved difficult and lengthy discussions over a period of two years.

24. Mr. RAZVIN (Russian Federation) regretted that the Assistant Director of the Unit for Peace-keeping Matters and Special Assignments had not explained what the procedure for reclassification actually involved and whether the Fifth Committee or the General Assembly was responsible. He agreed with the representative of France that the scale of assessments was an important question requiring the fullest possible consideration. The matter should therefore be held over until the forty-seventh session, when a fair and appropriate solution could be found.

25. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that the basic and underlying consideration should always be the capacity to pay, as reflected by long-term economic conditions. In the present case, the situation was clear. The Committee for Development Planning had decided that the countries concerned should be included in the category of least developed countries and those countries naturally wished to take advantage of that situation. In view of the circumstances, there was no reason why they should be forced to come cap in hand and plead their case. Seeking to make them wait would not enhance their capacity to pay. He therefore wished formally to second the amendment proposed by the representative of Madagascar.

26. The CHAIRMAN said that the meeting would be suspended for 30 minutes so that a solution could be worked out in informal consultations.

The meeting was suspended at 4.10 p.m. and resumed at 4.45 p.m.

27. The CHAIRMAN said that, in the informal consultations, agreement had been reached on a new paragraph to be inserted after paragraph 5 in draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.24, which would read:

> "Requests the Secretary-General to report to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly on anomalies in the allocation of countries to the four groups contained in General Assembly resolution 43/232, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B, 45/269 and 46/198 A and applied as an ad hoc arrangement to the financing of the United Nations Observer Mission in El Salvador, taking into account Assembly resolution 46/206 of 20 December 1991 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;".

28. Mr. CARDOSO (Brazil) said that, if the Secretary-General was to be asked to report on anomalies, then some kind of yardstick was needed to determine exactly what those anomalies were. He would welcome some clarification on that point.

29. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) felt that the concern expressed by the representative of Brazil was covered by the reference to "other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly", since, if he remembered correctly, one of the resolutions concerned contained a reference to the capacity to pay. Perhaps the Secretariat could provide confirmation on that point.

30. Mr. BAUDOT (Officer-in-charge, Department of Administration and Management) said that similar requests had been made before and he could assure members of the Committee that the method used to identify anomalies would not be arbitrary.

31. Mr. CARDOSO (Brazil) said that specific terms of reference were still needed. He therefore proposed that the words "having as terms of reference the same criteria established for the four groups in resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973" should be inserted in the new paragraph.

32. Mr. COHEN (United States of America) said that he was aware of the existence of criteria for the second and third groups but not for the other two groups. He would welcome clarification from the Secretariat as to what those criteria were.

33. Mr. BAUDOT (Officer-in-charge, Department of Administration and Management) agreed that there were no real criteria for the other two groups and suggested that it might be better to use the term "approach".

34. Mr. DANKWA (Ghana) said that the problem could be resolved by adding the words "including resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973" after the words "other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly" at the end of the proposed new paragraph.

35. Mr. CARDOSO (Brazil) said that he would agree to that proposal.

36. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that the resolutions referred to in paragraph 11 of draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.24 did not make any reference to voluntary contributions in cash. The paragraph should therefore be amended to include a reference to resolution 43/230 of 21 December 1988.

37. The CHAIRMAN said that, if he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it should adopt draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.24, as orally amended.

38. It was so decided.

39. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve were pleased that the Committee had recommended the adoption of the draft resolution by consensus. Nevertheless, it would be cause for concern if the practice were to develop of establishing a level of appropriations for peace-keeping operations on the basis of contributions collected.

40. Mr. KINCHEN (United Kingdom) said that the fact that his delegation had not insisted on the application of the provisions of rule 120 of the rules of procedure in the matter before the Committee did not imply that that rule should not normally be heeded.

41. The CHAIRMAN noted that the procedure followed by the Committee in its consideration of the draft resolution before it constituted an exception to rule 120.

AGENDA ITEM 148: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY IN CAMBODIA (continued) (A/46/903 and A/46/916; A/C.5/46/L.25)

42. The CHAIRMAN, introducing draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.25, drew the Committee's attention to the fifth preambular paragraph and to paragraphs 4 and 5 relating to the budgetary estimates and to the appropriation in respect of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), respectively.

43. A number of delegations had suggested amendments to paragraph 9 of the draft resolution, so that the paragraph would read:

> "Reiterates the need for increased use of civilian personnel in relevant sectors of peace-keeping operations from Governments, as called for in its resolutions 44/192 A of 21 December 1989 and 45/258 of 3 May 1991, and requests the Secretary-General to encourage the participation of such personnel in the Transitional Authority in its civilian components in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraphs 24 and 25 of the report of the Advisory Committee;".

(The Chairman)

44. Furthermore, he would take it that the Committee wished to amend the draft resolution in line with the amendments adopted in respect of draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.24, by amending the end of paragraph 12 to read "... the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 43/230 of 21 December 1988, 44/192 A and 45/258", and by inserting a new paragraph 6, to read:

> "Requests the Secretary-General to report to the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly on anomalies in the allocation of countries to the four groups contained in General Assembly resolution 43/232, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B, 45/269 and 46/198 A and applied as an ad hoc arrangement to the financing of the Transitional Authority, taking into account resolution 46/206 of 20 December 1991 and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolution 3101 (XXVIII) of 11 December 1973".

45. If he heard no objection, he would take it that the Committee wished to recommend to the General Assembly that it adopt draft resolution A/C.5/46/L.25, as orally amended.

46. It was so decided.

47. Mrs. EMERSON (Portugal), speaking on behalf of the 12 States members of the European Community, said that the Twelve welcomed the consensus on the draft resolution, and reiterated their commitment to the success of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia, which represented one of the most ambitious peace-keeping operations carried out by the United Nations. Self-determination for the Cambodian people through free elections and full respect for human rights were the fundamental principles for peace in Cambodia. The Twelve hoped that the implementation of the plan would restore peace to Cambodia and contribute to a new era in international relations in South-East Asia.

48. If peace-keeping operations were to succeed, political will must be translated into financial commitment. Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full and on time. Late payments were a breach of the financial obligations of Member States, hindered the Organization's ability to carry out peace-keeping operations, prejudiced its ability to meet its financial obligations to Governments, and placed an unfair burden on those Member States which paid promptly and in full.

49. The CHAIRMAN said that the adoption of the two draft resolutions by consensus demonstrated the Committee's flexibility in dealing with proposals for which it had not been prepared. Nevertheless, the Committee should reflect that the mechanism of informal consultations had served the Committee

(The Chairman)

well over the years; every effort should be made to continue to make use of that mechanism as a tried and tested procedure in considering the weighty matters before it.

The meeting rose at 5.45 p.m.